

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial composition which is active against gram-negative bacteria selected from the group consisting of *E.coli* and *P. aeruginosa*, gram-positive *Staph aureus* bacteria, *C. albicans* yeast, *B. cepacia* and *A. niger* mold spores, and, said antimicrobial composition consisting essentially of, by wt.

- (a) 40-60% of a 1,2-diol, and selected from the group consisting of 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol, ~~and~~ 1,2-octanediol and mixtures thereof,
- (b) 40-60% ~~of a~~ phenoxyethanol; and
- (c) 0-10% of a co-biocide selected from the group consisting of sorbic acid, benzoic acid, dibromodicyanobutane, ~~iodopropynyl butyl carbamate~~ and 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial composition according to claim 1 in which (c) is sorbic acid ~~and/or 1% iodopropynyl butyl carbamate~~.

Claim 3. (Original) An antimicrobial composition according to claim 1 wherein (a) is about 44% and (b) is about 56%.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial composition according to claim 2 ~~wherein (c) is~~ the sorbic acid, is present in an amount of about 5-7% of the composition.

Claim 5. (Cancel)

Claim 6. (Original) An antimicrobial composition of claim 1 wherein (a) is 41-42%, (b) is 52-53%; and (c) is sorbic acid of 5-7%.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial composition of claim 1 wherein (a) is present in an amount of 43.3%; (b) is present in an amount of 55.3%; and (c) is ~~iodopropynyl butyl carbamate~~ present in an amount of 1.4% .

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Claim 8. (Cancel)

Claim 9. (Cancel)

Claim 10. (Cancel)

Claim 11. (New) An antimicrobial composition consisting essentially of, by weight, based on the total weight of (a) and (b):

(a) 40-60% of a 1,2-diol selected from the group consisting of 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-octanediol and mixtures thereof;

(b) 40-60% phenoxyethanol; and

(c) 0-10% of a co-biocide selected from the group consisting of sorbic acid, benzoic acid, dibromodicyano-butane, 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, and mixtures thereof, wherein said antimicrobial composition is active against at least one of *E. coli*, *Staph aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *B. cepacia*, *C. albicans*, and *A. niger*.

Claim 12. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 11 wherein (a) comprises a mixture of 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol.

Claim 13. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the composition comprises 60% (a) and 40% (b).

Claim 14. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 13 wherein (1) comprises equal parts 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol.

Claim 15. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 11 wherein the co-biocide is present in the composition.

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Claim 16. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 15 wherein the co-biocide is sorbic acid or 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one.

Claim 17. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 16 wherein the co-biocide comprises sorbic acid present in an amount of about 5-7%.

Claim 18. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 11 wherein the composition comprises 40% (a) and 60% (b).

Claim 19. (New) An antimicrobial composition in accordance with claim 18 wherein the co-biocide comprises sorbic acid present in an amount of about 5-7%.